

2016 CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS ANNUAL CONFERENCE CALL FOR SESSIONS OVERVIEW

PURPOSE:

HUD's Choice Neighborhoods program is seeking proposals for 90-minute sessions for the 2016 Choice Neighborhoods Conference. The conference is taking place in Washington, DC and is tentatively scheduled for March 18. The purpose of the sessions is to enhance the practical toolkits of Choice Neighborhoods grantees. Grantees have requested that conference sessions:

- Feature national and/or local experts with substantial practitioner experience
- Describe specific best practice examples and results
- Discuss how specific challenges or hurdles were overcome
- Share practical tools that grantees can use and adapt
- Be well facilitated and interactive

WHAT IS CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS?

Choice Neighborhoods is HUD's signature place-based initiative and is a central element of the White House's Promise Zones Initiative, which builds on a federal partnership to transform high poverty neighborhoods into places of opportunity and economic growth. Choice Neighborhoods enables communities to revitalize struggling neighborhoods with distressed public housing or HUD-assisted housing. Local leaders, residents, and stakeholders, such as public housing authorities, cities, schools, police, business owners, nonprofits, and private developers, create a plan that revitalizes distressed HUD housing and addresses the challenges in the surrounding neighborhood. Through these grants, communities are replacing obsolete, distressed housing with vibrant mixed-income communities, leveraging investments to develop new retail and businesses, turning around failing schools, strengthening early education, preventing crime, improving transportation, ensuring basic neighborhood assets, and increasing access to jobs.

WHO WILL ATTEND THE CONFERENCE?

Approximately 250 Choice Neighborhoods planning and implementation grantee representatives and their partners, including resident leaders, local governments, public housing authorities, nonprofits, schools, police, business owners, foundations, and private developers, as well as representatives from HUD and other federal partners

WHAT ARE THE SESSION TOPIC AREAS?

Community Safety	Improving Student Outcomes	Community Engagement	Stabilizing Distressed or Vacant Properties
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Examples of specific topics in each area are provided below.

Community Safety

- Policing strategies that effectively reduce crime (e.g., problem-solving oriented-strategies, community-oriented policing, hot-spots policing, focused-deterrence strategies, etc.)
- Services and strategies that can complement policing strategies to reduce or prevent crime, such as health, mental health, and community building
- Coordinating prisoner reentry in the context of a public or assisted housing development and the surrounding neighborhood

- Targeting neighborhood improvements to support public safety strategies
- Bringing together communities with both Choice Neighborhoods and DOJ's Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation program grants to have an intensive strategy/problem-solving workshop

Improving Student Outcomes

- Utilizing wraparound supports, such as early learning programs, parent groups, out of school time programs, and family supports to improve child academic outcomes
- Using the role of an "education specialist" or others to help families' choose where to send their children when there is school choice
- Improving a neighborhood school when students from the public or HUD-assisted housing development and the surrounding neighborhood are attending schools across the district
- Deciding how to target limited funds to improve education outcomes. What part of the cradle to college and career pipeline should the most resources go to and why?
- Understanding how school districts and charter schools make decisions and distribute their resources, and how to influence these decisions

Community Engagement

- Building connections between public and HUD-assisted residents and residents of the broader neighborhood
- Helping neighborhood groups and entities represent a wider and more diverse constituency
- Seeking out and building the capacity of resident leadership
- Supporting the development and sustainability of a resident group that has the ability to implement neighborhood improvements both on their own and in collaboration with other stakeholders

Stabilizing Distressed or Vacant Properties

Effective practices to revitalize neighborhoods, including those in hot or weak markets, through:

- Addressing vacant lots
- Land banking
- Infill strategies
- Façade improvements for private and commercial properties
- Existing homeowner repairs

WHAT IS THE SUBMISSION PROCESS?

- **October 30, 2015:** Complete attached session proposal form and email it to: Chiquita.L.Ward@hud.gov by close of business, Friday, October 30
- **November 30, 2015:** Notification of selection by November 30– Due to space limitations, not all deserving proposals can be accommodated
- **February 25, 2015:** Collaborate with HUD and submit final presentation by February 25
- Travel reimbursements are **not** available

MORE INFORMATION:

- For more information about the Choice Neighborhoods program, please visit www.hud.gov/cn
- For information about our past conferences and convenings, please visit www.hud.gov/choiceta